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| | | | <div>EXAMINER</div> <div>ZHU, RICHARD Z</div> | |
| | | | <div>ART UNIT</div> <div>2609</div> | <div>PAPER NUMBER</div> |
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/758,099

Applicant(s)

BUTTERFIELD ET AL.

Examiner

Richard Z. Zhu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/16/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections - 37 CFR 1.75

1. The following is a quotation of 37 CFR 1.75(a):

The specification must conclude with a claim particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention or discovery.

2. The following is a quotation of 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1):

The claim or claims must conform to the invention as set forth in the remainder of the specification and the terms and phrases used in the claims must find clear support or antecedent basis in the description so that the meaning of the terms in the claims may be ascertainable by reference to the description.

Claim 4 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(a), as failing to conform to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which application regards as his invention or discovery. Claim 4 recites "wherein the signal indicates....", please specify if "the signal" corresponds to "an output signal" of Claim 3?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-5, 7 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by *Castelli et al. (US 5748221 A)*.

Regarding Claim 1, *Castelli* discloses a method for detecting color misregistration (Col 3, Rows 24-27) in an image forming system (Col 3, Row 30) comprising:

Forming a registration patch with the image forming system (Col 6, Rows 65-67).

Performing spectrophotometric analysis on the registration patch (Col 3, Rows 34-40 and Col 6, Rows 61-63).

Determining if color misregistration has occurred based on the spectrophotometric analysis of the registration patch (Col 7, Rows 2-10, the results of the mapping are verified and evaluated).

Regarding Claim 2, *Castelli* discloses the step of forming a patch pattern further comprising steps of:

Calculating or selecting a combined color value for the registration patch (Col 6, Row 67 – Col 7, Row 2, colors are selected to adequately represent the printer's collection of colors);

Forming the registration patch in a combination of colors having a composite color value equivalent to the calculated or selected value (Col 6, Row 65 – Col 7, Row 2, the

color patches are printed using colors that adequately represent the printer's collection of colors).

Regarding Claim 3, *Castelli* discloses the method for detecting color misregistration further comprising generating an output signal in response to the step of determining (**Col 3, Rows 38-40, a third detector that generates a signal indicative of a registration value between a plurality of color separations).**

Regarding Claim 4, *Castelli* discloses that the output signal indicates whether the image forming system is performing within satisfactory limits (**Col 6, Rows 22-27, the results as indicated by the output signal is used to calibrate the printer of interest with the mapping to absolute or desired color coordinates).**

Regarding Claims 5 and 17, *Castelli* discloses the method for detecting color misregistration, the step of performing spectrophotometric analysis further comprising scanning the registration patch with a spectrophotometric device (**Col 7, Rows 2-4);**

and obtaining a degree of color misregistration based on known dimensions of the registration patch and an amount of color shift between the color detected by the spectrophotometric device (Col 6, Rows 39-55. In order for this invention to be enabled, i.e. to measure the relative positions of different color components, the system needs to be aware of the dimension of the patch so that it may know the range to properly direct the scanning, as demonstrated in Col 8, Rows 31-40) and the calculated or selected color value (Col 7, Rows 2-10, the results of the mapping between extracted image color data and selected color data are verified and evaluated).

Regarding Claim 7, *Castelli* discloses the method for detecting color misregistration further comprising performing an adjustment operation if it is determined that an unacceptable level of color misregistration has occurred (**Col 6, Rows 22-27, calibration of output is performed to assure color constancy**).

Regarding Claim 8, *Castelli* discloses an image forming system capable of detecting and adjusting for color misregistration comprising:

a plurality of image forming stations, each image forming station forming an image in one color (**Fig 6, Development Stations C and D**);

a charge retentive surface which receives each image from its corresponding image forming station and transfers the combined image to a recording medium (**Fig. 6, belt 10, and see Col 4, Rows 25-30**);

a spectrophotometric device either attached to or integral to the image forming device (**Col 6, Rows 61-64, spectrophotometer connected via neural networks**);

and a controller that causes the spectrophotometric device to perform detection of color misregistration on at least one registration patch (**Fig. 7, Controller**).

Regarding Claim 9, *Castelli* discloses the controller further implements an adjustment to reduce detected misregistration (**Col 6, Rows 22-27**).

Regarding Claim 14, *Castelli* discloses the registration patch further comprising a registration patch formed in a combination of colors having a composite color value equivalent to a pre-calculated or pre-selected combined color value. (**Col 6, Row 67 – Col 7, Row 2, colors are selected to adequately represent the printer's collection of colors and see Column 6, Rows 30-55 where composite colors cyan and magenta are anticipated to**

be part of the groups of colors that needed to be analyzed. Therefore, if there exist devices to analyze composite colors, then that means patches are formed from these colors).

Regarding Claims 15 and 16, *Castelli* discloses the controller further implements an output signal which indicates the results of the spectrophotometric analysis (**Fig 7, Controller, and see Col 3, Rows 34-40 first/second/third detectors being controlled to perform spectrophotometric analysis**) and output signal indicates whether the image forming system is performing within satisfactory limits (**Col 6, Rows 22-27, the results as indicated by the output signal is used to calibrate the printer of interest with the mapping to absolute or desired color coordinates**).

Regarding Claim 19, *Castelli* discloses the adjustment comprising an alteration to the image forming process of at least one image forming station if the spectrophotometric analysis indicates color misregistration has occurred (**Col 6, Rows 17-30, instruments are calibrated in response to any color inconsistency to ensure constant color**).

Regarding Claim 20, *Castelli* discloses an apparatus comprising:

means for forming images (**Col 4, Rows 5-7, an imaging system**);

means for creating at least one registration patch (**Col 6, Rows 65-67, a number of patches**);

means for performing spectrophotometric analysis on the at least one registration patch to determine if color misregistration is occurring on images formed by the image forming means (**Col 3, Rows 34-40 and Col 6, Rows 61-63**);

means for determining if color misregistration has occurred based on the spectrophotometric analysis of the registration patch (**Col 6, Rows 10-30**);

means for adjusting the image forming process to adjust for the color misregistration (**Col 6, Rows 22-27**).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 10, 11, and 12 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable in view of ***Castelli et al. (US 5748221 A)***.

Regarding Claims 10, 11, 12, ***Castelli*** discloses each elements of Claim 9 from which Claims 10, 11, and 12 are dependent upon. Furthermore, ***Castelli*** discloses that the image forming system is an imaging system that is used to produce color outputs (**Fig. 6, printing machine and Col 4, Rows 5-10**). However, ***Castelli*** does not explicitly disclose that the printing machine is a digital photocopier, an ink jet printer, or a laser printer. Nonetheless, it is well within the knowledge of one ordinarily skilled in the art to use the above-mentioned copiers and printers as the image forming system because each of said copiers and printers are qualified to perform superbly in the endeavor of color printing and they are all very well known under the sun.

Therefore, it would've been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time of invention to use either a digital photocopier, an ink jet printer, or a laser printer as the printing machine of ***Castelli*** in order to enable the printing of multi-color images from which spectrophotometric analysis can be performed.

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7. Claims 6 and 18 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combined teaching of *Castelli et al. (US 5748221 A)* and *Uchida et al. (US 4816844 A)*.

While *Castelli* discloses the method and apparatus of Claim 1 and Claim 9 respectively, and the step of forming a registration patch comprises forming a registration patch which has at least two superimposed colors (*Castelli, Col 6, Rows 30-55*), *Castelli* does not disclose that the colors form a line in a direction that is perpendicular to the direction of color misregistration.

Uchida discloses that the line (*Fig. 5A-C, and see Col 3, Rows 35-55, magenta and cyan*) is in a direction perpendicular to the direction of color misregistration.

Therefore, it would've been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time of invention to form two superimposed colors in a line that is perpendicular to the direction of misregistration in order to discover any deviation that is attribute to a difference or differences in the time periods required for the transfer material to move between adjacent image forming stations (*Uchida, Col 3, Rows 47-50*) so that the fourth detector of *Castelli (Castelli, Col 3, Rows 40-42)* can properly determine when to initiate spectrophotometric analysis.


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Conclusion

1. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: US 6304278 B1, US 6885841 B2, US 6915096 B2, US 6987567 B2, US 7036737 B2, and 2003/0210412 A1 all teaches arts relevant to detect and adjust color misalignments or misregistrations.
2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian P. Werner whose telephone number is 571-272-7401 and Richard Z. Zhu whose telephone number is 571-270-1587. The examiners can normally be reached on M-F, 8:00 - 4:30.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

RZZ
4/26/2007


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Art Unit 2609